

Date: March 2, 2020

To: All ACBH Contracted Providers of Substance Use Disorder and Mental Health Services

From: Quality Assurance Office

Re: Prior Authorization and PTARs are no longer required for Psychological Testing services.

The Alameda County Behavioral Health (ACBH) Quality Assurance Office (QA) per directions in [DHCS MHSUDS INFORMATION NOTICE NO.: 19-026](#) is removing the prior authorization requirement for psychological testing. Effective immediately, Psychological Testing Authorization Requests (PTARS) are no longer required to be submitted to the ACCESS unit in order to provide psychological testing to beneficiaries.

All other requirements for psychological testing remain in effect, including that the medical necessity for psychological testing be determined and documented in a chart prior to providing or claiming for psychological testing.

Providers that are contracted to provide psychological testing are encouraged to attend either of the below-mentioned Quality Improvement meetings to give comment on the county's changing policy and procedure for psychological testing.

The Quality Improvement Sub-committee will be meeting on April 6th, 2020 from 10:30am to 12 noon to review the changes to Alameda County's Psychological Testing Policy and Procedure for psychological testing and draft a policy. This meeting will occur at 2000 Embarcadero, Oakland, Suite 305, in the Joaquin Miller Room. This meeting will devote more time to discussing the policy in detail and making changes based on feedback.

The updated Psychological Testing Policy will be presented at the monthly Quality Improvement Committee on Monday May 25th during the 10:30am to 12:30pm meeting and will be open to comment by the system of care members. This meeting will occur at 2000 Embarcadero, Oakland, Suite 400, Gail Steele Room. This meeting will spend time doing only a brief overview of the policy. Any feedback given during this meeting will be used to modify the policy in the future.

The Psychological Testing Policy and Procedure will include significant instructions and information about how to determine and document medical necessity in a chart to substantiate the need for psychological testing and support claims submitted for psychological testing.





Note: Only providers that are contracted with Alameda county to provide psychological testing may claim this type of service and this change does not change any contract or service type that providers may claim.

